



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,974	07/09/2001	Shell Sterling Simpson	10007647-1	7274

7590 07/17/2007
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

SINGH, SATWANT K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2625

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

07/17/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 04 April 2007.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 8, 14, 20, 26, and 32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, 17-21, and 23-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferlitsch (US 2002/0138558) in view of Aiello, Jr. et al. (US 6,337,745).
5. Regarding Claim 1, Ferlitsch teaches a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising: placing production data received from a client in a queue (Fig. 2, printing queues 45, 55), the production data including production options (user enters data and/or instructions) (page 3, paragraph [0036]) for a target document identified by the client (user initiates a print job) (page 4, paragraph [0045]); generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing production data held in a queue (Fig. 1, input interfaces 20) (page 3, paragraph

Art Unit: 2625

[0036]), the production data to be delivered to on of a plurality of production devices (managing and processing print jobs in a networked environment ... one or more printing devices illustrated as printers 60 and 62) (page 4, paragraph [0040]); presenting the queue interface to a client (receiving a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]); and presenting the status interface to the client (management of print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

Ferlitsch fails to teach a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising: generating a status interface for the production device selected through the queue interface.

Aiello, Jr. teaches a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising: generating a status interface for the production device selected through the queue interface (Fig. 9, operator may sort the Job queue status table using options in a Job queue status table view menu) (col. 7, lines 31-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Ferlitsch with the teaching of Aiello, Jr. to allow a user to view the printing status of a particular printing device and to help determine the load on the printing device.

6. Regarding Claim 2, Ferlitsch teaches a method, further comprising managing the production data in the queue in accordance with instructions entered through the queue interface (management of print jobs includes initiating a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

Art Unit: 2625

7. Regarding Claim 3, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the acts of generating the queue and status interfaces comprise generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

8. Regarding Claim 5, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the acts of generating and presenting the status interface for the production device comprise generating and presenting the status interface once the production data is delivered to the production device (once print job has been despoiled) (pages 6 and 7, paragraph [0065]).

9. Regarding Claim 6, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the act of presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface (content of broadcast may include a command field indicating a desire to set/get status of print job, ... and an identification of one or more print jobs) (page 7, paragraph [0066]).

10. Regarding Claim 7, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein: the act of generating the queue interface comprises generating the queue interface in the form of a web page; the act of generating the status interface comprises generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and the act of generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

11. Regarding Claim 8, Ferlitsch teaches a method for mediating access to production devices, comprising: acquiring an access request for a particular one

Art Unit: 2625

of a plurality of production devices, the access request originating from a client (transmitting a broadcast) (pages 4 and 5, paragraph [0048]); presenting to a client a production interface for the particular production device (Fig. 2, printing queues 45, 55), the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production data identifying a target document (user initiates a print job) (page 4, paragraph [0045]) and one or more production options (user enters data and/or instructions) (page 3, paragraph [0036]); placing in a queue production data received from the client and selected through the production interface, the queue capable of containing production data directed to more than one of the plurality of production devices (managing and processing print jobs in a networked environment ... one or more printing devices illustrated as printers 60 and 62) (page 4, paragraph [0040]); generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing production data in the queue (Fig. 1, input interfaces 20); presenting the queue interface to a client (receiving a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]); and presenting the status interface to the client (management of print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

Ferlitsch fails to teach a method for mediating access to production devices, comprising: generating a status interface for a chosen production device selected through the queue interface.

Aiello, Jr. teaches a method for mediating access to production devices, comprising: generating a status interface for a chosen production device selected through the queue interface (Fig. 9, operator may sort the Job queue

Art Unit: 2625

status table using options in a Job queue status table view menu) (col. 7, lines 31-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Ferlitsch with the teaching of Aiello, Jr. to allow a user to view the printing status of a particular printing device and to help determine the load on the printing device.

12. Regarding Claim 9, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the acts of generating the queue and status interfaces comprise generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

13. Regarding Claim 11, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the acts of generating and presenting the status interface for the production device comprise generating and presenting the status interface once the production data is delivered to the production device (once print job has been despoiled) (pages 6 and 7, paragraph [0065]).

14. Regarding Claim 12, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the act of presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface (content of broadcast may include a command field indicating a desire to set/get status of print job, ... and an identification of one or more print jobs) (page 7, paragraph [0066]).

15. Regarding Claim 13, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein: the act of generating the queue interface comprises generating the queue interface in the form of a web page; the act of generating the status interface comprises

Art Unit: 2625

generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and the act of generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

16. Regarding Claim 14, Ferlitsch teaches a computer program product for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, The product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for: placing production data received from a client in a queue (Fig. 2, printing queues 45, 55), the production data including production options (user enters data and/or instructions) (page 3, paragraph [0036]) for a target document identified by the client (user initiates a print job) (page 4, paragraph [0045]); generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing production data held in a queue (Fig. 1, input interfaces 20) (page 3, paragraph [0036]), the production data to be delivered to on of a plurality of production devices (managing and processing print jobs in a networked environment ... one or more printing devices illustrated as printers 60 and 62) (page 4, paragraph [0040]); presenting the queue interface to a client (receiving a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]); and presenting the status interface to the client (management of print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

Ferlitsch fails to teach a product for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising: generating a status interface for the production device selected through the queue interface.

Aiello, Jr. teaches a product for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising: generating a status interface for the production device selected through the queue interface (Fig. 9, operator may sort the Job queue status table using options in a Job queue status table view menu) (col. 7, lines 31-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Ferlitsch with the teaching of Aiello, Jr. to allow a user to view the printing status of a particular printing device and to help determine the load on the printing device.

17. Regarding Claim 15, Ferlitsch teaches a product, further comprising instructions for managing the production data in the queue in accordance with instructions entered through the queue interface wherein the queue manager is further operable to manage production data in the queue in accordance with instructions provided through the queue interface (management of print jobs includes initiating a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

18. Regarding Claim 17, Ferlitsch teaches a product, wherein the instructions for generating and presenting the status interface for the production device comprise instruction for generating and presenting the status interface once the production data is delivered to the production device (once print job has been despoiled) (pages 6 and 7, paragraph [0065]).

19. Regarding Claim 18, Ferlitsch teaches a product, wherein the instructions for presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface (content of

Art Unit: 2625

broadcast may include a command field indicating a desire to set/get status of print job, ... and an identification of one or more print jobs) (page 7, paragraph [0066]).

20. Regarding Claim 19, Ferlitsch teaches a product, wherein: the instructions for generating the queue interface comprise instructions for generating the queue interface in the form of a web page; the instructions for f generating the status interface comprise instructions for generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and the instructions for generating the combined queue/status interface comprises instructions for generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

21. Regarding Claim 20, Ferlitsch teaches a computer program product for mediating access to production devices, the product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for: acquiring an access request for a particular one of a plurality of production devices, the access request originating from a client (transmitting a broadcast) (pages 4 and 5, paragraph [0048]); presenting to a client a production interface for the particular production device (Fig. 2, printing queues 45, 55), the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production data identifying a target document (user initiates a print job) (page 4, paragraph [0045]) and one or more production options (user enters data and/or instructions) (page 3, paragraph [0036]); placing in a queue production data received form the client and selected through the production interface, the queue capable of containing production

Art Unit: 2625

data directed to more than one of the plurality of production devices (managing and processing print jobs in a networked environment ... one or more printing devices illustrated as printers 60 and 62) (page 4, paragraph [0040]); generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing production data in the queue (Fig. 1, input interfaces 20); presenting the queue interface to a client (receiving a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]); and presenting the status interface to the client (management of print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

Ferlitsch fails to teach a product for mediating access to production devices, comprising: generating a status interface for a chosen production device selected through the queue interface.

Aiello, Jr. teaches teach product for mediating access to production devices, comprising: generating a status interface for a chosen production device selected through the queue interface (Fig. 9, operator may sort the Job queue status table using options in a Job queue status table view menu) (col. 7, lines 31-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Ferlitsch with the teaching of Aiello, Jr. to allow a user to view the printing status of a particular printing device and to help determine the load on the printing device.

22. Regarding Claim 21, Ferlitsch teaches a product, wherein the instructions for generating the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for

Art Unit: 2625

generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

23. Regarding Claim 23, Ferlitsch teaches a product, wherein the instructions for generating and presenting the status interface for the production device comprise instruction for generating and presenting the status interface once the production data is delivered to the production device (once print job has been despoiled) (pages 6 and 7, paragraph [0065]).

24. Regarding Claim 24, Ferlitsch teaches a product, wherein the instructions for presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface (content of broadcast may include a command field indicating a desire to set/get status of print job, ... and an identification of one or more print jobs) (page 7, paragraph [0066]).

25. Regarding Claim 25, Ferlitsch teaches a product, wherein: the instructions for generating the queue interface comprise instructions for generating the queue interface in the form of a web page; the instructions for generating the status interface comprise instructions for generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and the instructions for generating the combined queue/status interface comprises instructions for generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

26. Regarding Claim 26, Ferlitsch teaches in a computer network, a system for providing queue management and production device status, the system

Art Unit: 2625

comprising: one or more production devices (Fig. 2, printers 60 and 62), each production device having a production server (clients 40 and 50) operable to generate a status interface for the particular production device (clients 40 and 50 keep one or more queues of spooled print jobs per accessible printing device) (page 4, paragraphs [0041] and [0042]); a client operable (Fig. 1, computer device 10) to display a user interface (monitor or display screen) (page 3, paragraph [0037]) ; a mediation service in electronic communication with the client and the production device or devices (network 64), the mediation service operable to place production data received from the client in a queue (Fig. 2, printing queues 45, 55), the production data including production options (user enters data and/or instructions) (page 3, paragraph [0036]) for a target document identified by the client (user initiates a print job) (page 4, paragraph [0045]), generate a queue interface having user accessible controls (Fig. 1, input interfaces 20) (page 3, paragraph [0036]) for managing the production data to be delivered to one or more of the production devices and held in the queue (managing and processing print jobs in a networked environment ... one or more printing devices illustrated as printers 60 and 62) (page 4, paragraph [0040]), present the queue interface to the client (receiving a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

Ferlitsch fails to teach a system, presenting to the client the status interface for a particular one of the production devices selected through the queue interface.

Aiello, Jr. teaches a system, presenting to the client the status interface for a particular one of the production devices selected through the queue interface (Fig. 9, operator may sort the Job queue status table using options in a Job queue status table view menu) (col. 7, lines 31-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Ferlitsch with the teaching of Aiello, Jr. to allow a user to view the printing status of a particular printing device and to help determine the load on the printing device.

27. Regarding Claim 27, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the mediation service includes a queue manager operable to manage production data in the queue in accordance with instructions provided through the queue interface (management of print jobs includes initiating a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

28. Regarding Claim 28, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the mediation service includes an interface generator operable to present to the client the status interface for the particular production device selected through the queue interface (broadcast to get the status of a network printing device) (page 7, paragraph 0069)).

29. Regarding Claim 29, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the interface generator is further operable to generate and present the queue and status interfaces in the form of a combined queue/status interface (content of broadcast may include a command field indicating a desire to set/get status of print job, ... and an identification of one or more print jobs) (page 7, paragraph [0066]).

Art Unit: 2625

30. Regarding Claim 30, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein: at least one of the production servers includes a web server operable to generate the status queue in the form of a web page associated with a first network address; and the interface generator of the mediation service functions, at least in part, as a web server operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a web page associated with a second network address and to present the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page having a first frame referencing the first network address and a second frame referencing the second network address (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

31. Regarding Claim 31, Ferlitsch teaches a system, further comprising an interface generator operable to present to the client the status interface for a production device once production data is delivered from the queue to that device (once print job has been despoiled) (pages 6 and 7, paragraph [0065]).

32. Regarding Claim 32, Ferlitsch teaches a system, a system for providing queue management and production device status, the system comprising: one or more production devices (Fig. 2, printers 60 and 62) each having a production server (clients 40 and 50) operable to generate a status interface and manage production of a target document (clients 40 and 50 keep one or more queues of spooled print jobs per accessible printing device) (page 4, paragraphs [0041] and [0042]); a client operable to issue an access request for a selected production device (Fig. 1, computer device 10) and to display one or more interfaces (monitor or display screen) (page 3, paragraph [0037]); a queue for storing

Art Unit: 2625

production data (Fig. 2, print queues 45 and 55) (page 4, paragraph [0041]); an interface conduit in electronic communication with the client and the production server or servers (network 64), the interface conduit operable to acquire the access request originating from the client (transmitting a broadcast) (pages 4 and 5, paragraph [0048]), present to the client a production interface for the production device to which the request is directed (clients 40 and 50 keep one or more queues of spooled print jobs per accessible printing device) (page 4, paragraph [0042]), and to place in the queue production data received from the client and selected through the production interface (management of print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0027]); a queue manager operable to deliver production data from the queue to the production server for the production device to which that production data is to be delivered (management print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

Ferlitsch fails to teach a system comprising: an interface generator operable to generate and present to the client a queue interface and to present to the client the status interface for a particular one of the production devices selected through the queue interface.

Aiello, Jr. teaches a system comprising: an interface generator operable to generate and present to the client a queue interface and to present to the client the status interface for a particular one of the production devices selected through the queue interface (Fig. 9, operator may sort the Job queue status table using options in a Job queue status table view menu) (col. 7, lines 31-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Ferlitsch with the teaching of Aiello, Jr. to allow a user to view the printing status of a particular printing device and to help determine the load on the printing device.

33. Regarding Claim 33, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the interface generator is further operable to present to the client the status interface for a production device selected through the queue interface (broadcast to get the status of a network printing device) (page 7, paragraph 0069)).

34. Regarding Claim 34, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the interface generator is further operable to present the queue and status interfaces in the form of a combined queue/status interface (content of broadcast may include a command field indicating a desire to set/get status of print job, ... and an identification of one or more print jobs) (page 7, paragraph [0066]).

35. Regarding Claim 35, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein: the interface generator and at least one of the production servers each function, at least in part, as a web server; the production server being further operable to generate the status interface in the form of a web page associated with a first network address; and the interface generator being further operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a web page associated with a second network address and to present the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page referencing the first and second network addresses (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

Art Unit: 2625

36. Regarding Claim 36, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the interface generator is further operable to present the status interface for that production device once that production data is delivered (once print job has been despoiled) (pages 6 and 7, paragraph [0065]).

37. Regarding Claim 37, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein: the interface generator and at least one of the production servers function at least in part as web servers; the production server being further operable to generate the status interface in the form of a first web page; and the interface generator being further operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a second web page (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

38. Regarding Claim 38, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the queue manager is further operable to manage production data in the queue in accordance with instructions provided through the queue interface (management of print jobs includes initiating a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

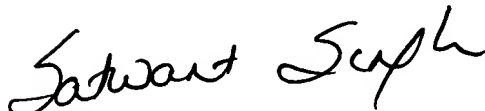
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satwant K. Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-7468. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am - 4:30pm.

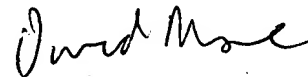
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


sks

Satwant K. Singh
Examiner
Art Unit 2625



DAVID MOORE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600